

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02083 031736Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-11 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02

SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-07 DOEE-00 AF-10

EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 /182 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1424

UNCLAS CARACAS 2083

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: BILATERAL ENERGY TALKS: PRESS EMPHASIZES CONSULTATIVE ASPECTS

REF: STATE 053861

1. RECENT PRESS REPORTS ON THE FORTHCOMING US VISIT OF ENERGY MINISTER HERNANDEZ STRESS THE CONSULTATIVE ASPECTS OF THE MINISTER'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. EL NACIONAL OF MARCH 1, CLEARLY REFLECTING A CAREFUL BRIEFING BY THE MINISTRY, POINTED OUT THAT THIS WOULD BE THE MINISTER'S FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON. COMMENTING THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE ENERGY FIELD HAD COOLED DURING THE PREVIOUS US ADMINISTRATION, THE ARTICLE EXPLAINED THAT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING WOULD RE-ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONSULTATIONS IN ACCORD WITH AN AGREEMENT REACHED DURING PRESIDENT PEREZ'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. DISCUSSIONS, IT SAID, WOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO PETROLEUM BUT WOULD COVER BROAD BILATERAL AND WORLDWIDE ENERGY QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE US ENERGY PROGRAM. GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS
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PAGE 02 CARACA 02083 031736Z

ON FUTURE SUPPLIES ARE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA, BUT OIL PRICES WOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED.

2. EL UNIVERSAL OF MARCH 2, QUOTED THE MINISTER IN MORE SPECIFIC TERMS. APPARENTLY RESPONDING TO COMMENTS THAT HE WAS GOING TO THE US TO SEEK ADDITIONAL OIL SALES, THE MINISTER STATED THAT HIS VISIT WAS NOT FOR

THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING MYSTERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS,
MUCH LESS TO SELL OIL, SINCE THIS WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY
OF PETROLEOS DE VENEZUELA. RATHER, HE SAID, HE WOULD
BE INFORMING US OFFICIALS ON THE GENERAL OUTLINES OF
VENEZUELA'S ENERGY POLICY, A SUBJECT HE HAD DISCUSSED IN NUMEROUS
PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS IN EUROPE,
ASIA AND AFRICA.
CROWLEY

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Message Attributes

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